

BEST AVAILABLE COPYIN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled) A musical instrument, comprising: a string having a first end and a second end; a tailpiece for securing the first end of the string; and a head remote from the tailpiece for securing the second end, comprising: an anchor connected with the second end; and an arm for pivoting the anchor about an axis transverse the axis of the string; wherein pivoting the anchor in a first direction increases the tension in the string.
2. (Cancelled) The musical instrument of claim 1 comprising a lock to impede pivoting the arm in a second direction.
3. The musical instrument of claim 2 wherein the lock comprises a plurality of spaced-apart stops to impede pivoting the arm in a second direction.
4. (Cancelled) The musical instrument of claim 2 wherein the lock allows pivoting of the arm in the first direction while impeding pivoting of the arm in the second direction.
5. (Cancelled) The musical instrument of claim 1 wherein the lock comprises a plurality of teeth formed on the arm that cooperate with a plurality of teeth formed on the head.

6. (Cancelled)The musical instrument of claim 1 wherein the head comprises a tuner for varying the tension in the string while the arm is in a fixed location.

7. (Cancelled)The musical instrument of claim 6 wherein the tuner comprises a thumbscrew.

8. (Cancelled)The musical instrument of claim 6 wherein the tuner comprises a continuously variable element for continuously varying the tension in the string.

9. (Cancelled)The musical instrument of claim 6 wherein the tuner adjusts the position of the anchor.

10. (Cancelled)The musical instrument of claim 1 comprising a nut and a bridge, wherein the bridge forms a first critical point for the string and the nut comprises a second critical point, wherein the anchor is adjacent the nut.

11. (Cancelled)The musical instrument of claim 10 wherein the anchor is closer to the nut than the pivot axis of the arm.

12. (Cancelled)A stringed musical instrument, comprising: a string having a first end and a second end; a bridge element adjacent the first end of the string; an anchor securing the second end of the string remote

from the bridge element; a tensioner operable to displace the anchor in a direction generally parallel to the axis of the string to tension the string.

13. (Cancelled) The stringed instrument of claim 12 wherein the tensioner comprises a lever pivotable about a pivot axis disposed transverse the string.

14. (Cancelled) The stringed instrument of claim 13 wherein the lever is disposed generally parallel to the axis of the string.

15. (Cancelled) The stringed instrument of claim 12 comprising a lock for impeding displacement of the tensioner in a first direction.

16. (Cancelled) The stringed instrument of claim 12 comprising a tuner adjacent the tensioner for varying the tension in the string to tune the string.

17. (Cancelled) The stringed instrument of claim 16 wherein the tuner comprises a thumbscrew.

18. (Cancelled) The stringed instrument of claim 16 wherein the tuner comprises a continuously variable element for continuously varying the tension in the string to tune the string.

19. (Cancelled) The musical instrument of claim 12 wherein the anchor comprises a set screw.

20. (Cancelled) The musical instrument of claim 13 wherein the lever is an L-shaped lever.

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Claim 21 (currently amended) A stringed musical instrument comprising a body, a neck extending outwardly from said body, a head located opposite said body on said neck, at least one string extending from said body to said head, said at least one string having a first end and a second end, means on said head for supporting and forming a first critical point for said at least one string, means on said body for supporting and forming a first critical point for said at least one string, said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said body wherein said stringed musical instrument includes a[n] tuning adjustment device comprising a means for bringing said at least one string to proper playing pitch from an untensioned condition at at least one pitch tuning[s] quickly and a separate means whereby said at least one string is further pitch tuned at said proper playing pitch.

Claim 22 (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 21 wherein said tuning adjustment device is located on said body comprising at least one anchor connected with said second end and at least one additional separate means for pivoting said at least one anchor about an axis transverse the axis of said at least one string in a first direction for tensioning said at least one string to said at least one pitch tuning.

Claim 23 (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 21 wherein said tuning adjustment device is located on said head comprising at least one anchor connected with said first end and at least one additional separate means for pivoting said at least one anchor about an axis transverse the axis of said at least one string in a first direction for tensioning said at least one string to said at least one pitch tuning.

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Claim 24 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 23 wherein said tuning adjustment device comprises at least one lock to impede pivoting said at least one additional separate means in a second direction.

Claim 25 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 24 wherein said at least one lock allows pivoting of said at least one second separate means in said first direction while impeding pivoting of said at least one additional separate means in said second direction.

Claim 26 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 24 wherein said at least one lock comprises a plurality of spaced-apart stops to impede pivoting said at least one additional separate means in said second direction.

Claim 27 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 24 wherein said at least one lock comprises a plurality of teeth formed on said at least one second separate means that cooperate with at least one

tooth to impede pivoting said at least one additional separate means in said second direction.

Claim 28 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 23
wherein said separate means comprises at least one tuner for varying the tension of said at least one string while said at least one additional separate means is in a fixed location.

Claim 29 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 28
wherein said at least one tuner comprises a thumbscrew.

Claim 30 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 28
wherein said at least one tuner comprises a continuously variable element for continuously varying the tension in said at least one string.

Claim 31 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 28
wherein said at least one tuner adjusts the position of said anchor.

Claim 32 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 23
comprising a nut and a bridge wherein said nut comprises said first critical point and said bridge comprises said second critical point, wherein said at least one anchor is adjacent said nut opposite said second critical point.

Claim 33 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 23 comprising a nut and a bridge wherein said nut comprises said first critical point and said bridge comprises said second critical point, wherein said at least one anchor comprises said nut opposite said second critical point.

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Claim 34 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 23 wherein said at least one additional separate means comprises an L-shaped lever.

Claim 35 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 22 comprising a nut and at least one bridge wherein said nut comprises said first critical point and said at least one bridge comprises said second critical point for said at least one string, wherein said at least one anchor is adjacent said at least one bridge opposite said first critical point.

Claim 36 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 22 including a nut and at least one bridge, said nut comprising said first critical point and said at least one bridge comprising said second critical point for said at least one string, said bridge having a surface extending generally in the direction of said at least one string, wherein said at least one anchor comprises said at least one bridge opposite said first critical point.

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Claim 37 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 36
wherein said at least one bridge being pivotably displaceable about said axis transverse the axis of said at least one string, said second critical point travels a critical distance on said surface of said at least one bridge and simultaneously balances the harmonic tuning with said proper playing pitch as said bridge is pivoted raising said at least one string from an untensioned condition to said at least one pitch tuning.

Claim 38 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 37
wherein said adjustment device comprises at least one lock to impede pivoting said at least one additional separate means in a second direction.

Claim 39 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 38
wherein said at least one lock allows pivoting of said at least one second separate means in said first direction while impeding pivoting of said at least one additional separate means in said second direction.

Claim 40 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 32
wherein said at least one additional separate means comprises an elongated lever.

Claim 41 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 39
wherein said adjustment device comprises a tremolo.

Claim 42 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 39
wherein said adjustment device comprises a fulcrum tremolo.

Claim 43 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 41
wherein said adjustment device comprises a macro-tuner.

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Claim 44 (currently amended) A stringed musical instrument comprising a body, a neck extending outwardly from said body, a head located opposite said body on said neck, at least one string extending from said body to said head, said at least one string having a first end and a second end, means on said head for supporting and forming a first critical point for said at least one string, means on said body for supporting and forming a second critical point for said at least one string, said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said body, at least one string anchor located opposite said body on said head wherein said stringed musical instrument comprises a[n] tuning adjustment device combining a means for bringing said at least one string to proper playing pitch from an untensioned condition at at least one of several preset pitch tunings quickly, a separate means whereby said at least one string is fined tuned at said proper playing pitch and at least one gripping portion intermediate said nut and said at least one string anchor for gripping [the] said at least one string.

Claim 45 (previously presented) A stringed musical instrument comprising a body, a neck extending outwardly from said body, a fulcrum tremolo, a head located opposite said body on said neck, at least one string extending from said body to said head, said at least one string having a first end and a second end, means on said head for supporting and forming a first critical point for said at least one string, means on said fulcrum tremolo for supporting and forming a second critical point for said at least one string, said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said fulcrum tremolo, said fulcrum tremolo including bearing means for adjustably mounting said fulcrum tremolo on said body for pivotal displacement, said bearing means including at least one bearing assembly, said bearing assembly comprises at least a portion of a ball bearing surface.

Claim 46 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 45 wherein said bearing assembly includes at least one shaft connected to said fulcrum tremolo.